

The Bel Aire Breeze

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JANUARY 2011

Complimentary copy

Work on key commercial project on the horizon

City OKs contracts to install Tierra Verde infrastructure

By Matt Heilman

After tabling a motion on the matter at its last meeting in November, the Bel Aire City Council moved forward Dec. 7 to approve contracts to install about \$3 million in infrastructure planned for the Tierra Verde commercial development near 47th North along Webb Road.

After Tierra Verde developers Terrie Grillot and Paul Cavannaugh made significant progress this year, finalizing agreements and meeting requirements to earn the city's pledge for the infrastructure. It's just a matter of time before construction can begin in the development.

Between the last council meeting of November and Dec. 7, Bel Aire City Attorney Lee Parker revised a preliminary engineering contract for Tierra Verde's infrastructure installation.

With two contracts in front of them and a shared enthusiasm for Tierra Verde's potential, the council's decision to move forward to dedicate infrastructure in the development was unanimously approved Dec. 7.

The council approved a preliminary engineering contract with Crafton, Tull and Associates for water, sewer and streets, and then approved Certified Engineering Design for the final engineering of the infrastructure.

Bel Aire began working with Crafton, Tull and Associates on the preliminary work before the firm disbanded. This is why the council made two separate motions dealing with two companies.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said infrastructure construction is likely to begin in the spring. Grillot and Cavannaugh were present at the Dec. 7 meeting.

They said progress is continuing for the three-

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Bel Aire celebrates its 30th

'It's a friendly city,' founder says

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire leaders past and present gathered to celebrate the city's 30th anniversary Dec. 4 at City Hall. Current and former council members and six of Bel Aire's seven mayors enjoyed holiday music, reminisced about the city's past and discussed its current issues.

Past keepsakes, including old photos and news articles were organized on posters and in photo albums. Refreshments included a 30th birthday cake.

Bel Aire's first two mayors, who have lived in the city since long before its 1980 incorporation, were part of the crowd gathered at City Hall.

Ninety-four-year-old Charles Eaton was Bel Aire's second mayor from 1983 to 1985. He also served a total of 10 years on the city council, from 1981 to 1983 and again from 1989 to 1997.

Eaton and Bel Aire's first mayor, Bill Brookhouser, served on the committee that won Bel Aire's incorporation on Nov. 26, 1980. Both men stayed involved as the city's population grew.

Eaton, who stays active by volunteering with Meals on Wheels and teaching fellow senior citizens how to use computers, said he's not discouraged by the current financial difficulties in the city.

He said there are many communities across the country whose financial state is as bad or worse than Bel Aire's. Eaton also voiced confidence in the city's current leadership, particularly Mayor Harold Smith.

"We're a little mixed up, but not bad," Eaton said. "We've got a good mayor here. Our mayor is probably one of the best we've ever had."

While not every Bel Aire resident shares his optimistic view of the city, Eaton said he's maintained his home in Bel Aire because he's always felt

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Welcome 2011



By Matt Heilman

The city of Bel Aire faced some of the biggest challenges in its history in 2010. The budget process and attempts to survive a heavy debt were in the forefront, but the city also had reason to celebrate. In November, Bel Aire celebrated its 30th birthday.

Bel Aire should be cautiously optimistic about the future. There's a long way to go, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully, the light becomes brighter in 2011.

Here's a look at the events of 2010.

January

Needing \$1.7 million to effectively pay the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority for water, City Administrator (later

turned City Manager) Ty Lasher proposed a water rate increase. In a presentation, Lasher called for an \$8 increase from \$14 to \$22 per month for residents and an \$14 increase for commercial customers from \$18 to \$32. The city council unanimously passed the proposed rate increase in February.

USD 259 switched its bus service when the Wichita school board voted not to renew a contract with Durham School Services. The district had contracted with Durham for 14 years. The board started a new contract with First Student, a bus company out of Ohio. First Student buses include GPS technology, which allows school officials to track them.

PGA golfer Woody Austin of Derby joined brothers, lifelong Wichitans and PGA members Rick and Rod Nukolls

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There is much to work on in 2011

If 2010 was any indication, the communities in north Sedgwick County have opportunities and challenges ahead of them in 2011.

Governments and the citizens they serve must continue to find solutions to the economic uncertainty we're experiencing today. At the same time, governments must provide the services their residents expect. It's a tough balance.

We know our communities will emerge from this financial shadow some day, so we want to be poised for growth. Our communities must avoid the temptation to pull up the stakes and take down the tents.

There are a number of projects and plans that were started in 2010 that we expect to take shape in 2011.

Bel Aire

In Bel Aire, we're hoping the efforts to market city-owned land pay off in a big way. We'd like to see construction throughout the city, especially with the Tierra Verde Development near 47th North and Webb Road.

We hope the city will remain with Sedgwick County for its fire service and keep supporting the Bel Aire rec center, which was saved in 2010 when the city council decided to raise property taxes by three mills.

In 2011, we'd like to see the city sell enough land to avoid a steep tax hike for 2012.

Park City

In Park City, we're hoping the construction of a new city library and a BMX track at Hap McLean Park will serve citizens well. We're confident the city will continue to take pride in future developments and that city leaders will do what they can to spur growth without cutting corners. In the year ahead, we'd like to see leaders continue to support residents, but do so without letting politics get in the way of the bottom line, which is keeping residents satisfied with the town they call home.

Kechi

In Kechi, we'd like to see all the strategic planning efforts take legs. Long-term planning won't yield results overnight, but we hope to see more dirt moving in 2011.

We'd also like to see more residents move to Kechi in 2011, primarily in new homes on the market in the Northwoods and Rock Pointe additions.

Valley Center

City council members should keep pressing for a road extension in the city's cemetery. It's clear that there is a need to expand the relatively young cemetery. The project has been discussed for the past few years. Now it's time to make it happen.

The city also should continue discussions to re-establish a local animal shelter. Since last winter when it closed its outdated facility, the city has been shipping stray dogs to the shelter in Wichita. We have never considered that to be a permanent solution. An arrangement to partner with a private-practice veterinarian has potential. We hope an agreement that benefits the veterinarian, the city and pets can be reached.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Deadline for the February Breeze: Friday, Jan. 21

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Easy to blame others for city's debt

While it is easy to blame previous city councils for Bel Aire's debt issues, it must be pointed out that there are three members of the current city council who served with the previous Mayor Brian Withrow when:

- The option to purchase an additional 800-plus acres of land was exercised, which increased the city's debt by more than \$7 million.
- A consultant was paid more than \$300,000 for services the previous council was advised the city was not legally obligated to pay.
- The water/sewer agreement with Park City was modified whereby Park City now receives 70 percent of the treated water but pays only 50 percent of the operational costs.

In three and one-half years, the City of Bel Aire still has no coherent plan to market this property in a professional manner. The solution thus far has been to raise taxes by

more than 60 percent since 2006 with plans to increase taxes again in 2011 and 2012. At the same time, there has been little progress made to reduce expenditures to offset these increases.

Times are tough. Thousands of people have lost their jobs in the Wichita area. Businesses and other government entities have had to cut expenditures to reduce the bottom line. It's time to consider electing those who will present a more positive approach to marketing our property and promoting our city as well as someone who will be willing to make courageous decisions about cutting unnecessary expenditures.

— Maurice Terrebonne, Bel Aire

Leaders should be allowed to disagree

Bel Aire, Kansas, is not Bell City or Maywood City, California. Our city council members and mayors have not been self-aggrandizers, incompetents, liars or thieves like

the elected officials in those cities.

Residents of Bel Aire have usually elected to office those whom they admire and respect. Our mayors and council members have argued for what they think is the best course for the city to pursue. We elect them to do just that.

Thinking people often honestly disagree, and mayors and council members are thinking people.

The city has an election in April. Let us encourage honest and hard-working citizens to run for office. Let us leave the past behind. Let us focus on the future. Finding fault and seeking to attach blame is a futile and profitless endeavor. In 1945, songwriter Johnny Mercer wrote a No. 1 hit song. The pertinent stanza follows:

*"You've got to accentuate the positive
Eliminate the negative
And latch on to the affirmative
Don't mess with Mister In Between."*

Let us concentrate our energy and efforts on building a bright future for Bel Aire.

— Guy MacDonald, Bel Aire

'Twas the week after Christmas

I wrote a version of this version of "The Night Before Christmas" eight years ago. As much as things change, it's amazing how many things stay the same. I've updated it to reflect those changes. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.



Out of the office

By Chris Strunk

We can never get through them without much fuss.

With an anniversary, birthdays, Christmas and such,

We're a bit out of sorts, sometimes we lose touch.

Christmas Eve was spent at Grandma's down south,

Where there were presents galore and much food for the mouth.

When the last gift was opened, it hit me quite squarely,

If we were to make it, it would be just barely.

Christmas morning was another mess of paper and bows,

A Nerf gun, electronics and some shiny new clothes.

From there, the day's events

seem a bit hazy,

If we watch "Christmas Story" once more, I just might go crazy.

Now Jeremiah, now Raymond, and Marci, you too,

With all those new gadgets, isn't there plenty to do?

Leave Mom and Dad alone, let us get some rest.

When we're at our worst, it seems our kids are at their best.

Now, we're getting our lives back to a place more relaxed,

With a little less travel and fewer sugary snacks.

It's no wonder that we forget the reason,

Why we celebrate at all during this season.

It has its fun times, about that I can't quibble.

We're together, I get time off work, even if just a little.

Late December is great.

Here's what I mean.

We mark our wedding day; 12-21 was 19.

Even before Christmas

morn,

We've observed the days a mom, two brothers and a sister were born.

It's a time we give to our children and families as well.

Maybe it's me needing reminded, I never can tell.

Sometimes I lose sight of that important stuff.

I get bogged down in bikes and stuffed dolls called Power Puff.

My family makes me so happy and proud.

And those holiday headaches? I think they're allowed.

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Courtesy photos

Six of Bel Aire's former mayors gathered at City Hall are (from left) Bill Brookhouser, Charles Eaton, Lyle Ackerman, Dale Walter, Gary O'Neal and Harold Smith.

30th

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welcome.

"It's a friendly city," he said. "That's what I like about it."

Former council member Mary Dicke returned to celebrate Bel Aire's 30th birthday from her current home in Bailey, Colo. Her service on the council from 1997 to 2001 was a time of transition for Bel Aire.

"It was pretty challenging at that time, I would say," Dicke said.

During her time in office, Dicke saw Bel Aire reach a population of 5,000 and become a city of the second class. With the growth came the controversial decision to hire a full-time city administrator.

Dicke, whose ministry work led her to move from Bel Aire, said most of her good friends still live in the city.

Before introducing past and current city leaders, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher discussed the city's history from its start as an improvement district in 1955 through the construction of a new city hall in 2004.

Along with former council



members and mayors, residents who have called Bel Aire home for more than 20 years were recognized at the Dec. 4 celebration.

Although she left the city, Dicke mentioned some of Bel Aire's qualities that have drawn long-time residents over the years. She called Bel Aire a safe community that was "a great place to raise a family."

"I think it's a very positive little neighborhood," Dicke said.



ABOVE: The five current city council members, about half of the former council members and six former mayors gather at City Hall Dec. 4.

LEFT: Bel Aire's 30th anniversary celebration included a three-tier cake. The cake's decoration included photos.

Compliant cities receive county jail fee refunds

By Matt Heilman

After a lengthy battle with five cities over jail fees, Sedgwick County prevailed this fall when Bel Aire, then Wichita settled and agreed to pay the full amount owed in jail fees from January 2010.

Bel Aire and Wichita were the final cities left in the fight against jail fees after the other three, Goddard, Haysville and Park City settled earlier this year.

Since 2008, Sedgwick County has charged its cities \$2.09 to house inmates at the county jail. As part of the settlement, each of the five cities paid a fraction of what they owed for 2008 and 2009.

While the issue seemed laid to rest when the courts ruled in the county’s favor and Wichita backed down, unsolved business remained.

In the name of fairness and avoiding further conflict, the county commission had

to work out a deal to reward the nine Sedgwick County cities that paid jail fees from the time they were enforced, through 2009. This group included Valley Center and Kechi.

At its Dec. 15 meeting, the commission voted 3-2 to give an 85 percent refund to cities that had been compliant on jail fees from the start. Commissioner Dave Unruh, whose district includes most of Kechi and Bel Aire, said he supported a recommended 80 percent refund. However, he didn’t let the 5 percent discrepancy between what was recommended and what was approved take away from the real issue.

“We wanted to be equitable in light of the fact that they had been paying,” Unruh said.

He said commissioners concluded that the nine compliant cities should benefit from a better compromise

than the five-city group that cost the county legal expenses.

As part of the settlement with the county, the five cities that had refused to pay the jail fees and were part of a lawsuit from Sedgwick County only had to pay between 26 and 37 percent of what they owed in 2008 and 2009. After Park City settled in January, they paid \$36,450 in back fees. They owed about \$140,000.

When Bel Aire settled in September, the city paid about \$35,000, or 37 percent of the \$95,000 to \$96,000 it owed for 2008 and 2009 jail fees.

Although they settled eight months apart, Park City and Bel Aire agreed the county’s enforcement of jail fees amounted to double taxation.

Valley Center and Kechi didn’t necessarily disagree, but they indicated joining the fight against the county

wouldn’t have benefited them much.

Valley Center Administrator Joel Pile said that if courts had ruled in favor of the cities on the jail fees issue, the cities that weren’t part of the lawsuit likely would have received a refund.

For its part in complying with jail fees, Valley Center received a check of \$26,432.54 from Sedgwick County. In 2008 and 2009, the city paid about \$31,000 in jail fees.

Kechi city clerk Laura Hill said Kechi received a refund check of \$1,360.80. Kechi Mayor Bob Jackson said the city complied with the jail fees because the charges didn’t impact the city’s budget as much as the larger cities where more arrests are made.

The refunds for Valley Center and Kechi will return to the cities’ general funds.

HIGHLIGHTS

Suspicious death ruled a suicide

The suspicious death of a 40-year-old man whose body was found in an apartment near Bel Aire has been ruled a suicide, authorities said. The man’s body was found around 2:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at the Remington Apartments, 7272 E. 37th Street North.

When authorities initially classified the death as suspicious, they hadn’t ruled out homicide. However, further investigation revealed the man took his own life.

— Matt Heilman

Deadline for candidates Jan. 25

In the April 5 general election, the mayor’s position and two seats on the Bel Aire City Council are up for possible changes. Current Mayor Harold Smith has served the leadership role from 1991 to 1998 and from 2007 to present.

On the council, the seats currently held by Dave Sly and Carolyn Marlier are up for election. The deadline to file as a candidate to run for mayor or a council position is noon Jan. 25.

— Matt Heilman

City changing utility bills

Utility bills from the City of Bel Aire are changing format starting in February.

City Manager Ty Lasher said due to privacy issues and convenience, bills will switch from the postcard format to letters delivered in envelopes.

In addition to convenience, Lasher said more information could be available on water bills with the envelope format, including charts for residents to see water usage over a 12-month stretch and an explanation of what’s involved with the utility bills.

— Matt Heilman

POLICE REPORTS

Dec. 15 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Bradlee Brock on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 4800 E. 37th North.

Dec. 15 — Officer Foxx found a trash dump at 10000 E 45th North. The items were moved off of the road and Bel Aire City Works was notified.

Dec. 14 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Patrick Niyonteze on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 4300 N. Oliver.

Dec. 14 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Tyler A. Scott on a City of Bel Aire bench warrant at 11737 E. 21st North.

Dec. 14 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Kellie R. Burch on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 3820 N. Oliver.

Dec. 13 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Susan Ashley Birmingham on charges of driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance at 3800 N. Oliver.

Dec. 13 — Officer Hutton served a warrant in the 6100 block of East Danbury.

Dec. 13 — Officer Toomey responded to the report of a barking dog in the 4400 block of North Rushwood.

Dec. 13 — Officer Steele took a miscellaneous report in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 12 — Officer McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 6000 block of Summerside Place.

Dec. 12 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 6300 block of East 47th North. The alarm was false.

Dec. 12 — Officer Brandewiede issued a citation in the 5400 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 12 — Officer Steele responded to a disturbance in the 4200 block of North Westlake Court.

Dec. 12 — Officer Toomey assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow Court.

Dec. 12 — Officer Steele assisted Wichita Police in looking for a possible person driving under the influence in the 7900 block of East 37th North.

Dec. 11 — Officer McGuire issued traffic citations on charges of driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance.

Dec. 11 — Officer Foxx checked a residence in the 4100 block of North Danbury.

Dec. 11 — Officer Steele responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 4100 block of North Harding.

Dec. 10 — Officer McGuire arrested Shaun Moore on charges of driving with a suspended license, weapons violation and tag violations at 4700 N. Woodlawn.

Dec. 10 — Officer Foxx assisted EMS at 5500 N. Greenwich.

Dec. 10 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 11100 E. 45th North. Norris E. Henderson was arrested on a City of Wichita warrant.

Dec. 9 — Officer McGuire assisted EMS in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 9 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 4300 block of North Westlake.

Dec. 9 — Officer Hazelwood responded to a motor vehicle accident at 37th North and Woodlawn.

Dec. 9 — Officer Foxx found an open garage door in the 5000 block of North Remington. Officer checked the residence. No signs of burglary or theft were found.

Dec. 8 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 8 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a motor vehicle accident at 3924 N. Oliver.

Dec. 8 — Sgt. Spencer took a report of credit card fraud at 3959 N. Woodlawn.

Dec. 8 — Sgt. Spencer responded to a report of fraud in the 6600 block of East 44th North.

Dec. 7 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 6300 E. 37th North. Jerry W. McCray was arrested for two City of Wichita warrants. McCray was also arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 7 — Sgt. Spencer provided assistance at 8506 E. Central in Wichita.

Dec. 7 — Officer Hazelwood responded to the report of a burglary in the 3800 block of North Oliver.

Dec. 7 — Sgt. Spencer responded to the report of an assault in the 4400 block of North Rushwood.

Dec. 6 — Officer Toomey assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office with a traffic stop at 4800 E. K-96.

Dec. 6 — Officer Toomey arrested Jason McAdams on a charge of DUI at 3800 N. Oliver. McAdams was also arrested on a Sedgwick County bench warrant.

Dec. 3 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of theft of services in the 6500 block of East Rodeo.

Dec. 3 — Officer McGuire responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Edgemoor.

Dec. 3 — Officer Hazelwood checked on a parked RV at 4554 N. Woodlawn.

Dec. 3 — Officer Foxx arrested Shelly A. Brown on charges of DUI and transporting an open container at 6500 E. 45th North.

Dec. 3 — Sgt. Griggs responded to an alarm in the 7300 block of East Turquoise. The alarm was false.

Dec. 3 — Officer Hutton arrested David Paine on a charge of possession of marijuana.

Dec. 3 — Detective Pentecost responded to a non-injury accident at 5300 N. Webb Road.

Dec. 3 — Officer Hazelwood responded to the report of a larceny in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Court.

Dec. 3 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Wichita Police, Department and EMS in the 3400 block of North Great Plains.

Dec. 1 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Sharmel Monice K. Hadley on a charge of driving with a revoked license in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn.

Dec. 1 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an audible alarm in the 5100 block of East Willow Point.

Dec. 1 — Officer Foxx took the report that Wichita Police arrested Keo L. Thammavong on a Bel Aire warrant.

Nov. 29 — Officer Foxx issued a parking citation at 6700 E. 44th North.

Nov. 28 — Officer McGuire took the report of an auto theft in the

6500 block of East Odessa. A four-door Saturn was stolen.

Nov. 28 — Officer Hutton found a speed limit sign on the ground in the 6200 block of East 53rd North.

Nov. 28 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm at 5900 E. 37th North.

Nov. 28 — Officers Hutton and McCaslin assisted EMS at 3800 N. Oliver.

Nov. 28 — Officer Toomey responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 5300 block of East 48th North. No suspicious activity was found.

Nov. 28 — Officer Toomey responded to the report of a runaway in the 5800 block of East Perryton. The runaway was later located and returned home.

Nov. 27 — Officer McGuire took a vandalism report in the 4400 block of North Rushwood.

Nov. 27 — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS in the 4600 block of North Hedgerow.

Nov. 22 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Bryon Eugene Wesley on a charge of driving with a suspended license in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost responded to the report of a larceny in the 6900 block of East Perryton. Items were stolen from a residence.

Nov. 22 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 4500 block of Westlake Court.

Nov. 22 — Officer Hutton checked on a suspicious person at 4747 N. Webb.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost assisted EMS in the 5900 block of Hanover.

Nov. 22 — Officer Foxx issued a citation on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 5800 E 37th North.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost assisted EMS in the 4000 block of Clarendon.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost conducted a traffic stop at 5500 E. 37th North. He issued a citation on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost responded to an audible alarm at 6200 E. 37th North. The alarm was false.

Nov. 22 — Detective Pentecost responded to the report of fraud in the 4200 block of North Mission. A Visa card was used to make unauthorized purchases.

Nov. 22 — Officer McGuire took the report of harassing phone calls being made to a cell phone in the 4000 block of North Danbury.

Nov. 22 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. A traffic citation was issued for a charge of

driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 21 — Officer McGuire took the report of disorderly conduct in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake Drive. Someone threw eggs at a residence.

Nov. 21 — Officer Brandewiede checked on two open doors at 5900 E. 37th North.

Nov. 21 — Officer Steele conducted a traffic stop at 3800 N. Woodlawn. Chad Goddard was arrested on Sedgwick County and City of Wichita warrants. Goddard was also arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license and possession of stolen property.

Nov. 20 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 45th North and Woodlawn. Bryon Eugene Wesley was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 20 — Officer Brandewiede issued traffic citations for driving on a suspended license at 5500 E. 37th North.

Nov. 20 — Officer Foxx assisted Park City Police with a traffic pursuit.

Nov. 20 — Officer Steele responded to the report of a suspicious person in the area of 5900 E. 37th North.

Nov. 20 — Officer Foxx contacted two people walking in the 5900 block of East 37th North. They were walking home.

Nov. 20 — Officer Steel responded to an audible alarm in the 4900 block of North Farmstead Court. There were no signs of burglary and the perimeter of the residence was secure.

Nov. 19 — Detective Pentecost assisted Kechi Police with a welfare check in the 3200 block of East 101st North.

Nov. 19 — Detective Pentecost assisted EMS in the 5700 block of East Kenawee.

Nov. 19 — Detective Pentecost responded to an audible alarm in the 4500 block of Westlake Court. Officer spoke to the homeowner. The alarm was false.

Nov. 19 — Detective Pentecost took a report that John A. Schermerhorn was arrested in

Kingman county on a Bel Aire warrant.

Nov. 19 — Detective Pentecost and Sgt. Spencer responded to the report of vandalism in the 4300 block of Janesville. The front window of a residence was broken.

Nov. 19 — Officer Mavia responded to an alarm in the 6300 block of East Crestmark.

Nov. 19 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop for a defective headlight at 4100 N. Woodlawn. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 19 — Officer Steele conducted a traffic stop at Central Park and Woodlawn. The driver was issued a traffic citation.

Nov. 16 — Officer Hazelwood conducted a traffic stop in the 3700 block of North Oliver. The driver was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 16 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an alarm in the 5900 block of East 37th North.

Nov. 16 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office in Benton.

Nov. 16 — Officer Brandewiede assisted the Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Office by checking for a suspicious person.

Nov. 16 — Officer Hazelwood conducted a traffic stop at 3700 N.

Oliver. The driver was issued citations for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 16 — Officer Hazelwood responded to an audible alarm in the 5900 block of East 37th North. All building exits were secure. The alarm was false.

Nov. 16 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of larceny from an auto in the 4200 block of North Rushwood.

Nov. 16 — Officer Swanson assisted EMS in the 4800 block of East 44th North.

Nov. 16 — Detective Pentecost took a forgery report in the 4200 block of North Oliver.

Nov. 16 — Officer Hazelwood arrested Aaron Corral on a City of Bel Aire bench warrant at 7651 E. Central Park.

Nov. 16 — Officer McGuire took the report of larceny from an auto in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. Numerous items were taken. There was no damage to the vehicle.


Nov. 16 — Officer Swanson assisted EMS in the 4800 block of East 44th Street.

Nov. 16 — Detective Pentecost responded to the report of forgery at 4200 N. Oliver.

Nov. 15 — Officer Foxx found property in the 6300 block of East Perryton.

Dinner *with the* Doctor


Preparing for hospitalization



Dr. Carrie Bateman, Newton Medical Center hospitalist, offers patients and visitors guidance on preparing for an upcoming hospital stay.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Optional buffet: 5:30 p.m. — \$5
Presentation: 6 p.m. — **FREE**

Seating is limited — to RSVP, call Tina at (316) 804-6005



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2010

Continued from Page 1

as a part owner of Willowbend Golf Club just south of Bel Aire. The partners each hold one-third ownership of the course.

Under the guidance of Willowbend Golf Club general manager Jim Elliott, Willowbend received a facelift in 2010, including new cart paths, improved bunkers and a renovated practice facility.

February

Steve Rankin, husband of police clerk Cindy Rankin, received a Citizen Service Award from Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily. Rankin received the award in recognition of his volunteer activities for the Bel Aire Police Department.

Det. Craig Pentecost was recognized by Daily as the Bel Aire officer of the year. Edward Bole and Larry Anderson received a Citizen Merit Award from the chief for their work on Bel Aire’s senior patrol. Each February for the last three years, Daily has recognized those who help his department.

The Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma reported that plans to build a casino on its 10.5 acres in Park City could come to fruition by the end of the year. The land the Wyandottes own is located on the south side of 77th North between the county fires station near I-135 and the Wild West World property. The tribe applied for a trust application about 12 years ago and was confident the application would soon be approved in February. The plans to break ground on a casino in 2010 didn’t happen, though, as the tribe tries to work through legal complications at the state level.

March

The Sunrise Christian Academy basketball team won its third consecutive tri-state tournament championship over fellow private schools in Missouri and Oklahoma. Eight international students suited up for the team, including a pair of NCAA Division I recruits.

The U.S. Census Bureau began mailing out questionnaires to begin the 2010 Census. The once-every-10-year process is a population count used to allocate federal money to states.

Bel Aire resident Tiffany Nickel won the Miss Wheelchair Kansas competition March 12 through 14 in Topeka. Nickel, a USD 259 teacher, was paralyzed after a diving accident in 1996. Her perseverance and volunteer efforts for the physically disabled won her the award and a spot in the national Miss Wheelchair competition in August.

April

The city council unanimously voted to refinance land debt payments under a Bel Aire Public Building Commission (PBC) structure. Refinancing under the PBC allowed Bel Aire to refinance without a certificate of participation. Ultimately, the move gave the city a little more time to meet payments.

In discussions on how to save the city money, City Manager Ty Lasher mentioned Bel Aire was considering changing its fire service from Sedgwick County to the City of Wichita. The move would have saved property owners about 10 mills in property taxes, but no action was taken on the matter.

May

Long-time Bel Aire resident and Wichita State University football plane crash survivor Randy Jackson was honored with a tree-planting ceremony in Bel Aire Park. Bel Aire staff, volunteers and members of Jackson’s family attended the ceremony. Jackson’s daughters and granddaughter posed for a photo with shovels in hand where a survivor tree was planted in his honor. The survivor tree is an offspring of the elm that survived the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. At the time he was honored, Jackson was battling pancreatic cancer. He was too ill to attend the tree



ABOVE: Randy Jackson’s daughter Amanda Jackson, granddaughter Bresha Collins and daughter Sesily Jackson take part in the ceremonial tree planting in his honor May 8 in Bel Aire Park.



LEFT: Bel Aire Rec Center Director Brian Hayes uses the facility’s tractor to aerate grass near one of the baseball fields. Hayes and his staff handle most of the maintenance at the center. In August, residents rallied to keep the rec center open.

Photos by **Matt Heilman**

Arnold. Unruh has a satellite office at Bel Aire City Hall.

December

Past and present council members and mayors gathered at Bel Aire City Hall to celebrate the holiday season and Bel Aire’s 30th birthday. The city was awarded incorporation on Nov. 26, 1980. At the Dec. 4 celebration, about half of the former council members and five of the six mayors in Bel Aire’s history were present.

After tabling a motion on the matter at its last meeting in November, the Bel Aire City Council moved forward Dec. 7 to approve contracts to install about \$3 million in infrastructure planned for the Tierra Verde commercial development near 47th North along Webb Road. Although construction in Tierra Verde has yet to begin, developers saw a lot of progress in 2010, with several groups committed to building in the first phase of the environment-friendly development.

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planting. He died in July.

Kansas Gov. Mark Parkinson addressed his alma mater at the Heights High School graduation ceremony at Wichita State University’s Charles Koch Arena. Parkinson graduated from Heights in 1975.

June

Mayor Harold Smith announced that the first draft of the 2011 budget called for a property tax increase of three mills. He explained that the owner of a \$100,000 home could expect to pay an extra \$11.50 per year if the increase was approved.

The June 10 deadline for area Kansas House races came and went with no challengers to the lawmakers in place. Incumbent Reps. Melody McCray-Miller, Steve Huebert and Steven Brunk all filed for re-election with no challengers seeking their seats.

The annual wheat harvest saw yields that were below average in some areas. Rick Cooper of the Furley Co-op reported that most farmers yielded about 60 pounds per bushel, which was “a little disappointing.” However, Cooper said the quality of wheat seemed to be “pretty darn good.”

July

The home of Dennis and Cheryl McCallum at 4650 N. Hillcrest was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of July 1. An investigation pointed to fireworks as the likely cause of the fire, although the McCallums weren’t sure where fireworks may have come from. The couple relocated to an apartment in northeast Wichita, but said they planned to rebuild on their Bel Aire property.

The city council decided to publish a 4-mill increase to the 2011 budget. The decision

didn’t commit them to raise property taxes by 4 mills, it set a tax-raise cap of 4 mills. When the budget was finalized in August, the council approved a 3-mill raise.

August

An approved property tax mill-levy increase allowed the city council to avoid cutting city services. A 3-mill increase kept the police department from cutting positions and kept the Bel Aire rec center from closing its doors. For the time being, Bel Aire also continues to use Sedgwick County’s fire service.

Bel Aire was recognized as a 2010 Playful City USA by KaBoom! National Campaign for Play, a non-profit organization pushing for communities to encourage children to play outdoors and exercise. Bel Aire was one of 118 communities in 35 states to receive the recognition from KaBoom!

Three people were killed and three were injured in two separate wrecks in a span of three days on K-254. The wrecks occurred Aug. 14 and 16. Two people were killed and one was injured in an Aug. 14 accident at Greenwich and K-254. The third death occurred in the early-morning hours of Aug. 16 at K-254 and Webb. A Bel Aire woman died in the Aug. 16 accident and one man was injured. A K-254 safety meeting was held in Benton on Aug. 30, where Kansas Department of

Transportation public affairs manager Tom Hein and Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Gary Warner addressed concerns on K-254 and answered questions for about 150 people gathered at Benton Church.

September

After a long battle with Sedgwick County over jail fees, Bel Aire finally settled on the matter. The city agreed to pay the full cost for jail fees from January 2010 onward, and only had to pay 37 percent of the overdue fees for 2008 and 2009. Bel Aire owed between \$95,000 and \$96,000, but only paid \$35,000. Since 2008, Sedgwick County has charged cities \$2.09 per hour to house inmates.

City Manager Ty Lasher and Kechi City Administrator Mark Tallman began discussing a potential city partnership between Kechi and Bel Aire. Tallman and Lasher planned to explore cost efficiencies and the potential to share resources where the cities meet, primarily near K-254, where the bulk of each city’s growth is expected to take place in the next decade.

October

A grand-opening event complete with refreshments and a live band introduced Central Park’s newest addition to the public. The Landing, located three-quarters of a mile north of

45th North and Rock Road, has five completed homes that were introduced, including two available homes and three models.

Kansas Treasurer Dennis McKinney visited students at Heights High School in a class called Financial Literacy. McKinney, who emphasized the importance of teaching young people about fiscal responsibility, was part of one of the teams during a game of Financial Football, an educational football video game put together by VISA and the NFL where yards are gained by answering financial questions correctly.

November

Sunrise Christian Academy seniors Kip Wadel and Kayla Beckham organized a fundraising walk for Trevor Roberts, a senior at McLouth High School who was injured in a September football game at Sunrise. In the game, Roberts suffered a compound fracture to his left leg. After gangrene infection set in, he had to have part of the leg amputated.

Sedgwick County District 1 Commissioner Dave Unruh won a third term on the commission by defeating Democratic challenger Betty

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Long-time utility clerk ready for retirement

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire utility clerk Betty Martine is ready to retire after nearly 28 years working for the city. Her last day at City Hall is Jan. 28.

She initially planned to retire at the end of 2010, but decided to stay one more month to train her replacement, Jamie Hayes, who is currently Bel Aire’s administrative assistant.

Hayes will take the reigns of utility clerk the first week of

February.

At 67, Martine said the time is right to move on, although she plans to stay in Bel Aire and keep active in the community.

“I’ll probably volunteer a lot,” Martine said. “Then I might look for a part-time job if it gets boring at home.”

Her career in Bel Aire began with a part-time role as the planning commission secretary when the city was still an improvement district. She also stepped up as Bel Aire’s deputy



Martine

Aire from west Wichita, she

helped the improvement district become a city.

In November of that year, Martine braved cold temperatures to walk door-to-door in Bel Aire, gathering residents’ signatures on a petition for incorporation. The effort paid off when Bel Aire officially became a city on Nov. 26, 1980.

As Bel Aire became established and grew, Martine’s responsibilities at City Hall increased. The larger Bel Aire’s population, the more utility bills

Martine had to keep track of.

Today, Bel Aire’s population is near 7,000.

During stages of rapid growth and transition, Martine said there were a few growing pains, but nothing overwhelming for the city’s staff.

“We had some challenges and some troubled waters, but we all worked together and worked through it,” she said.

As the most tenured employee at City Hall, Martine said she’s going to miss talking with

people and getting to know her customers.

“A lot of them, let’s just say I grew up with them,” she said.

Looking back, Martine said she’s proud that she’s been able to help residents understand their water and sewer bills, which has made paying for utilities a little less frustrating for a lot of customers.

“I have continued to be good friends with most everybody,” she said.

Tierra

Continued from Page 1

phase development, which totals more than 200 acres. In the first phase, Grillot announced

new commitments, including a one-of-a kind culinary school, an art institute and a church.

There’s also progress with what is likely to be the first manufacturing company in Tierra Verde. The Energy Tun-

nel, a company that plans to build alternative energy generators, has obtained a few large contracts on the international level.

Grillot said The Energy Tunnel’s owner plans to start

building a facility in Bel Aire in about six months, moving from California.

The idea for Tierra Verde is for the development to be the most energy-efficient commercial development in the Mid-

west, Grillot said. This would entail meeting LEED building certification throughout the development.

Grillot said that with The Energy Tunnel’s headquarters at Tierra Verde, there would be

enough alternative power to keep nine buildings in the 77-acre first phase of the development off the grid.

“The green is going to put Bel Aire on the map,” Grillot said.

PEOPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Katie Ann Walters and Tyler Bryce O’Donnell are proud to announce their engagement.

She is the daughter of Craig and Lori Walters of Wichita. He is the son of Michael and Peggy O’Donnell of Bel Aire.

The bride-elect and

prospective bridegroom are both of Wichita. The wedding was to be Jan. 1, 2011.

†††

Area Kansas State University students received scholarships totaling more than \$1,000.

From Bel Aire, Karen

Amanda Akao received the Mr. and Mrs. Scott M. Higinbotham Memorial Scholarship; Isaac Mathew Eakes, Vanguard Airlines/Wichita Area Alumni Club Scholarship; and Elizabeth Erickson, Miller and Danielson Memorial Scholarship in

Human Ecology.

†††

The Bel Aire Lions Club collected non-perishable food for the holiday season. On Dec. 15, 150 pounds of food was delivered to the Kansas Food Bank for its holiday distribution.

DEATH

TERRY JESTER

Terry A. Jester, 60, of Bel Aire, died Dec. 20, 2010.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy; daughters and sons-in-law, Joy and Josh Curry of Wichita, Janet and Jason Freeman of Rio Rancho,

N.M.; grandchildren Brainna, Caitlyn, Victoria, Penny.

A celebration of his life was Dec. 23 at Kirby-Morris Funeral Home in El Dorado. Memorial with Kansas Humane Society.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday service times are 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside) across from Heights High School.

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord’s Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads

Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (south of WSU main entrance).

Rev. Dr. Monte Gravenstein, interim minister, leads Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study begins at 9:30. Children’s church and nursery are at 10:30. For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountuccc.org.

Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee following the service.

Pastor Natalie can be reached at 773-2300 or 744-0203.

Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

Free coffee and donuts are available from 5:30 to 9 a.m. Thursdays.

Visit the church online at Greenwichksumc.org.

The church is located about

a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road.

Kechi United Methodist Church

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221, its website is www.kechiumc.org and its e-mail address is kechiumc@sbcbglobal.net.

Sunday praise band and worship are at 9:03 a.m. Sunday school is at 10. Worship is at 11.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children’s church are at 10:45. Wednesday Bible study for

adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

Pine Valley Christian Church


The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

True Life Church

True Life Church meets at Circle Greenwich Elementary (just north of K-96 on Greenwich Road). Coffee, juice and donuts are served early Sundays. There are activities with the TLC Kids Zone from children from birth through fifth grade. True Life Church

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